

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 /017 W

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R 221344Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3410

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11156

BOMBAY PASS TO AMB MOYNIHAN

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI FROM CALCUTTA DATED 22 AUG.

QUOTE: CALCUTTA 1716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. BAIL: ACCORDING TO DEFENSE LAWYER BHOSE, THE COURT TODAY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE IDEA OF THE PRISONERS BEING PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THE NEXT STEP IS TO FIND A FLAT WHICH IS AGREEABLE TO SPECIAL BRANCH.

2. CONDITION OF PRISONERS: BHOSE SAID THAT HARCOS AND FLETCHER ATTENDED THE HEARING BUT DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A STATEMENT. HE SAID THEY WERE BOTH "VERY WEAK", AND WERE NOT PREPARED EITHER PHYSICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO ATTEMPT TO SAY ANYTHING TO THE COURT. IT WAS A VERY WARM DAY AND NO FAN WAS AVAILABLE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING AND THEY DID NOT LOOK AT ALL WELL. HARCOS WAS "NOT STEADY" WHEN HE STOOD UP TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF. AFTER THE HEARING, BHOSE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THEY WERE SO EXHAUSTED WHEN THEY HAD USED THE LIFT TO COME UP TO WHERE THE HEARING WAS HELD. FLETCHER SAID HE TOUGHT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE COURT ON A STRETCHER IN THE FUTURE. MR. BHOSE NOTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE AREA WHO TOOK NUMEROUS PICTURES BEFORE THE PRISONERS ENTERED THE CLOSED HEARING AND THAT THE

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PROSECUTOR HAD COMMENTED "WAS THAT THE PURPOSE FOR BRINGING

THEM TO THE HEARING?"

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED BY THIS REPORT, IT IS NOT TO BE RULED OUT THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THEATRICALS MAY BE INVOLVED FOR TACTICAL REASONS. NOTHING THAT WE HAVE GOT FROM THE PRISONERS UP TO THIS POINT WOULD HAVE PREPARED US FOR THIS REPORT OF THEIR CONDITION ALTHOUGH IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE EXERTION AND EXCITEMENT OF THEIR APPEARANCE AFTER THEIR LONG CONFINEMENT CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR CONDITION. THE CONSUL WILL VISIT THEM TOMORROW AND REPORT PROMPTLY ON HER OBSERVATIONS.
PICKERING UNQUOTE MOYNIHAN

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